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PATENT  
YOR920000133US1  
IBM-245

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Ravishankar Rao, et al.  
Serial Number : 09/552,423  
Filing Date : April 19, 2000  
Examiner : Srilakshmi K. Kumar  
Group Art Unit : 2675  
For : PRIORITY DRIVEN DITHER

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated July 3, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 2-9 therein. It is expected that, based upon this amendment pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions, Claims 1, 10 and 11 are allowable. As Claims 12 and 13 are dependent upon Claim 1, which is allowable, these Claims should also be allowable.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 14 - 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over Tai, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,411,745). The Examiner in his rejection states unqualifiedly that Claim 14 defines "...a method of halftoning at least a portion of the image, the method comprising employing a first rule of half toning and a second rule of half toning." The Examiner then reverses his unqualified statement by stating in the